

REMARKS

The drawings, specification and claims were objected to. Claims 11 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 11, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Bresson. Claims 11, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Palmatier. Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103.

Claims 1 to 10 and 17 to 20, previously withdrawn, and claim 13 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 11 and 16 have been amended. Claims 21 to 26 have been added.

Drawings

The rotation and translation device 22 defines the base, as has been made clear from the amendment to paragraph [0054]. See also the present specification at paragraph [0023], which described the rotation device as the base. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Specification

The specification has been amended to properly identify tape 124 and to correct the typographical error. Applicants thank the Examiner for noting these typographical errors, and withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections and 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph Rejections

The minor error to claim 11 has been fixed. Claim 11 has also been amended to make clear that the application layer remains as part of the blanket. A new claim 21 has been submitted to recite the case where the application layer is removed. Both claim 11 and claim 21 are now respectfully submitted as clear and definite and removal of the objection and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 102(e)/103 Rejections

Claims 11, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Bresson, and claim 16 as obvious in view of Bresson.

Claim 11 has been amended to recite that the tubular printing blanket can be

reversibly deformed, i.e. collapsed and returned to the tubular shape, as described in the specification at paragraph [0069] and as shown in Fig. 5.

Bresson does not show such a flexible tubular printing blanket. The blanket has a carrier layer of metal (column 8, line 53) or rigid or reinforced non-metal (col. 9, lines 21 to 48). Bresson clearly seeks to make a rigid carrier using rigid plastic. The heat shrinkable materials of polyethylene and polypropylene are also pretreated to be rigid: they are “cooled to retain stretched idmater [sic:diameter?]”. One of skill in the art reading Bresson would see Bresson teaching a rigid tubular blanket, as there is not disclosure for a flexible reversibly deformable blanket.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 11 and its dependent claims is respectfully submitted.

With respect to claim 16, this has now been amended for clarification and is respectfully submitted to be patentable in view of the discussion with regard to Bresson. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection to claim 16 is also respectfully requested.

Claim 11, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Palmatier et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,257,140. However, U.S. Patent No. 6,257,140 has exactly the same inventors as the present application, namely James Vrotacoe and Roland Palmatier. 35 U.S.C. 102(e) applies only to invention described in a patent “**by another**”. See MPEP 2136.04.

U.S. 6,257,140 is not “by another” but rather by the same inventive entity, and thus withdrawal of the rejection to claims 11, 14 and 15 with respect to Palmatier et al. is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

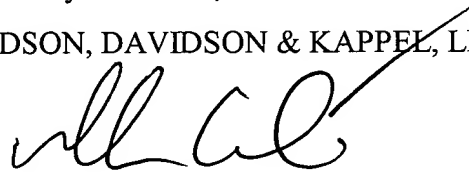
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

If any additional fees are deemed to be due at this time, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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